

November 15, 2007

United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator:

The undersigned organizations write to urge the Senate to vote in favor of the farm bill cloture motion. It is critical that the Senate pass omnibus farm legislation as soon as possible in order to assure enactment of a new farm bill this year.

While our organizations have differences on specific policy recommendations, we believe it is vitally important that the Senate pass a 2007 Farm Bill as soon as possible. The 2002 law expired in September, leaving farmers and ranchers uncertain of the policy environment in which they will operate next year and several conservation and nutrition programs expired. These programs that conserve land resources and serve poor and hungry people must be reauthorized and adequately funded now.

Extending the 2002 Farm Bill is not an acceptable alternative to enacting new legislation that addresses important needs in each of these areas. Extension is only a short term solution that does not provide the assurances that the nutrition, agriculture, conservation and renewable energy communities need for efficient long-term planning.

We worked with the Senate Agriculture Committee to develop a farm bill that addresses our priorities, but are concerned that delayed floor action is lessening the chances of completing a new farm bill this year. We therefore urge a yes vote on the cloture motion on this important legislation.

Sincerely,

AARP

Alameda County Community Food Bank

America's Second Harvest – The Nation's Food Bank Network

American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy

American Farmland Trust

American Heart Association

American Public Health Association

American Wind Energy Association

America's Second Harvest of KY's Heartland Food Bank

America's Second Harvest of Wisconsin

Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges

Association of Arizona Food Banks

Atlanta Community Food Bank

Bay Area Food Bank, Theodore, Alabama

Blue Ridge Area Food Bank, Verona, Virginia

California Association of Food Banks

California Food Policy Advocates

California Hunger Action Coalition
Capital Area Food Bank of Texas
Care and Share Food Bank for Southern Colorado
Cathedral Kitchen, Camden, New Jersey
Center for Civil Justice, Michigan
Center for Public Policy Priorities, Texas
Central Pennsylvania Food Bank
Children's Alliance, Washington
Children's Hunger Alliance, Ohio
Children's Sentinel Nutrition Assessment Program (C-SNAP)
Cleveland Foodbank, Inc.
Coalition on Human Needs
Community Food Security Coalition
Colorado Anti-Hunger Network
Colorado Food Bank Association
Community Food Bank of New Jersey
Community Food Banks of South Dakota
Congressional Hunger Center
Connecticut Association for Human Services
Connecticut Food Bank
Dare to Care Food Bank, Louisville, Kentucky
DC Hunger Solutions
Denver Urban Ministries
Emergency Food and Shelter Program, NYC
End Hunger Connecticut!
End Hunger Network, Houston, Texas
Environmental and Energy Study Institute
Environmental Law and Policy Center
Familia Center, Santa Cruz, California
Feeding Indiana's Hungry (FIH)
Feinstein Center for a Hunger Free America, University of Rhode Island
Florida Impact
Food & Water Watch
Food Bank for New York City
Food Bank of Alaska
Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina
Food Bank of Central New York
Food Bank of Delaware
Food Bank of Iowa
Food Bank of Lincoln, Nebraska
Food Bank of North Alabama
Food Bank of South Jersey
Food Bank of the Albemarle, North Carolina
Food Bank of the Rio Grande Valley, Inc.
FOOD for Lane County, Eugene, Oregon
Food Research & Action Center (FRAC)
FOOD Share, Inc., Oxnard, CA

Foodbank of the Virginia Peninsula
FoodLink for Tulare County, Inc.
Foodshare, Bloomfield, CT
FRAMAX Child Care Food Program, Modesto
Georgia State Food Bank Association
Gleaners Food Bank of Indiana, Inc.
God's Pantry Food Bank, Lexington, Kentucky
Great Plains Food Bank, Fargo, ND
Greater Chicago Food Depository
Greater Philadelphia Coalition Against Hunger
Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank
Harry Chapin Food Bank, Ft. Myers, Florida
Harvesters - The Community Food Network, Kansas City, Missouri
Houston Food Bank
Hunger Solutions Minnesota
Illinois Food Bank Association
Illinois Hunger Coalition
Island Harvest, Mineola, New York
Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes, Michigan
Kansas Food Bank
Kentucky Task Force on Hunger
Lincoln County food Share, Newport, Oregon
Los Angeles Regional Foodbank
Louisiana Food Bank Association
Manna Food Center, Rockville, Maryland
MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger
Mercer Street Friends Food Bank, Ewing, New Jersey
Michigan Legal Services
Middle Georgia Community Food Bank, Macon, Georgia
Midwest Dairy Coalition
Migrant Legal Action Program
Minnesota Food Share
Mississippi Food Network
Montana Food Bank Network
N.C. Cooperative Extension, Mitchell County Center, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences,
North Carolina State University
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd
National Association of Conservation Districts
National Association of County and City Health Officials
National Association of State Departments of Agriculture
National Association of State Energy Officials
National Center for Law and Economic Justice
National Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) Association
National Farmers Union
National Milk Producers Federation
National Puerto Rican Coalition, Inc.
Nebraska Appleseed Center for Law in the Public Interest

New Hampshire Food Bank
New Jersey Anti-Hunger Coalition
New Mexico Association of Food Banks
NM Human Needs Coordinating Council
North Texas Food Bank
Northeast Iowa Food Bank
Nutrition Consortium of NYS, Inc., New York
NYC Coalition Against Hunger
Ohio Association of Second Harvest Food Banks
OMB Watch
Oregon Food Bank
Oregon Hunger Relief Task Force
Ozarks Food Harvest, Springfield, Missouri
PANDORA-Patient Alliance for Neuroendocrineimmune Disorders Organization for Research and Advocacy, Inc.
Partners in Ending Hunger, Maine
Pennsylvania Hunger Action Center
Public Policy Center of Mississippi
Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma
RESULTS/RESULTS Educational Fund
Roadrunner Food Bank, Albuquerque, New Mexico
San Francisco Food Bank
Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law
Second Harvest Food Bank for San Diego
Second Harvest Food Bank of Greater New Orleans and Acadiana
Second Harvest Food Bank of Middle Tennessee
Second Harvest Food Bank of Orange County
Second Harvest Food Bank of Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties, California
Second Harvest Food Bank of the Chattahoochee Valley, Columbus, Georgia
Second Harvest Gleaners Food Bank of West Michigan, Inc.
Second Harvest Heartland, Maplewood, Minnesota
Second Harvest Inland Northwest, Spokane, Washington
Second Harvest North Central Food Bank, Grand Rapids, Minnesota
Second Harvest Northern Lakes Food Bank, Duluth, Minnesota
SHARE Food Program, Inc., Philadelphia
Side Campaign Against Hunger, New York City
So Others Might Eat, Inc. (SOME), Washington, D.C.
Social Ministries Task Force, Presbytery of Des Moines, Iowa
Society of Saint Andrew
South Plains Food Bank, Lubbock, Texas
Southern New Hampshire Services, Inc.
Southern Peanut Farmers Federation
St. Leo Food Connection, Tacoma, Washington
St. Louis Area Foodbank
St. Mary's Food Bank Alliance, Phoenix, Arizona
Statewide Food Network of New Jersey
TEFAP Alliance

The Food Bank of Central Louisiana
The Food Bank of Northwest Louisiana
The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts, Inc.
The Food Bank, Memphis, Tennessee
The Foodbank, Inc., Dayton, Ohio
The Greater Boston Food Bank
The Jewish Council for Public Affairs
The Kauai Food Bank, Inc, Hawaii
Union for Reform Judaism
United Food and Commercial Workers International Union
United Food Bank, Mesa, Arizona
USAction/USAction Education Fund
Utahns Against Hunger
Ventura County Food Bank
Vermont Campaign to End Childhood Hunger
Vermont Foodbank
Weld Food Bank, Greeley, Colorado
Western Organization of Resource Councils
WHEAT, Phoenix, Arizona
World Hunger Year (WHY)

Specialty Crop Farm Bill Alliance

Working to Make American Agriculture Stronger

November 15, 2007

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
United States Senate
528 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
361A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Reid and McConnell:

The Specialty Crop Farm Bill Alliance, a national coalition of more than 120 specialty crop organizations representing 350 specialty crops, is disappointed in the lack of progress that is being made by the Senate regarding the consideration and passage of the 2007 Farm Bill. The reauthorization of the Farm Bill represents an historic opportunity to move agriculture into the 21st Century by investing key resources into the livelihoods and business of specialty crop producers across the country.

Most importantly, this ongoing delay with the 2007 Farm Bill will make it difficult to enact legislation that addresses the needs of the specialty crop industry, which include increasing the role of specialty crops to improve nutrition, expanding production and product innovation research capabilities and improving critical procedures to control for invasive pests and diseases from entering this country. Therefore, it is critical that the Senate resolve their differences and pass a bill expeditiously so that a conference committee can be appointed and a final bill can be approved in 2007.

Specialty crop producers across the nation urge the Senate leadership and members of the Senate to come together quickly to pass a new Farm Bill for American farmers and consumers.

Thank you for your consideration of these important matters.

Sincerely,

Alabama Watermelon Association
American Mushroom Institute
American Nursery and Landscape Association
Arizona Winegrowers Association
Blue Diamond Growers
Buy California Marketing Agreement
California Association of Nurseries & Garden Centers
California Association of Wine Grape Growers
California Citrus Mutual
California Dried Plum Board
California Fig Institute
California Fresh Fig Growers Association
California Grape and Tree Fruit League
California Strawberry Commission

California Table Grape Commission
California Walnut Commission
California-Arizona Watermelon Association
Cherry Marketing Institute
Colorado Potato Administrative Committee
Colorado Wine Industry Development Board
Connecticut Farm Wine Development Council
Connecticut Vineyard & Winery Association
Empire State Potato Growers
Florida Citrus Mutual
Florida Citrus Packers
Florida Fruit and Vegetable Association
Florida Strawberry Growers Association
Florida Tomato Exchange
Florida Watermelon Association
Fruit Growers Marketing Association
Georgia Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association
Georgia Watermelon Association
Grower-Shipper Association of Central California
Idaho Grape Growers and Wine Producers Commission
Idaho Grower Shippers Association
Idaho Potato Commission
Indian River Citrus League
Indiana-Illinois Watermelon Association
Leafy Greens Council
Maine Potato Board
Maryland-Delaware Watermelon Association
Maryland Wineries Association
Miami-Dade County
Michigan Apple Committee
Minnesota Area II Potato Growers Research and Promotion Council
Minnesota Grape Growers Association
Missouri Wine & Grape Board
Missouri-Arkansas Watermelon Association
National Berry Crop Initiative
National Grape Cooperative Association
National Grape and Wine Initiative
National Onion Association
National Potato Council
National Watermelon Association
New England Vegetable and Berry Growers

New Mexico Wine Growers Association
New York Apple Association
New York Wine & Grape Foundation
North American Blueberry Council
North American Bramble Growers Association
North American Strawberry Growers Association
North Carolina Blueberry Council
North Carolina Grape & Wine Council
North Carolina Potato Association
North Carolina Strawberry Association
North Carolina Watermelon Association
Northern Kentucky Vintners & Grape Growers Association
Northwest Horticultural Council
Northern Plains Potato Growers
Ocean Spray Cranberries, Inc.
Ohio Wine Producers Association
Oklahoma Grape Growers & Wine Makers Association
Oregon Potato Commission
Oregon Raspberry & Blackberry Commission
Oregon Strawberry Commission
Oregon Winegrowers Association
Peace River Valley Citrus Growers Association
Peerbolt Crop Management
Potato Growers of Idaho
Produce Marketing Association
Rocky Mountain Association of Vintners & Viticulturists
Society of American Florists
South Carolina Watermelon Association
South Florida Tropical Fruit Growers Association
Sun Maid Growers
Sunkist Growers, Incorporated
Tennessee Farm Winegrowers Association
Texas Citrus Mutual
Texas Produce Association
Texas-Oklahoma Watermelon Association
Texas Vegetable Association
Texas Wine & Grape Growers Association
Tropical Fruit Growers of South Florida
U.S. Apple Association
United Fresh Potato Growers of Idaho
United Fresh Produce Association

United Potato Growers of America
Virginia Apple Growers Association
Virginia Wineries Association
Washington Association of Wine Grape Growers
Washington Red Raspberry Commission
Washington Apple Commission
Washington State Potato Commission
Welch's
Western Growers
Western Pistachio Association
Wild Blueberry Commission
WineAmerica
Wine Institute
Winegrape Growers of America
Winegrowers Association of Georgia
WineMichigan
Wine Producers Commission
Wyoming Grape & Wine Association

ATT: FARM BILL

November 15, 2007

Dear Senator:

The undersigned conservation organizations urge the Senate to move forward with consideration of the farm bill without further delay but with full and fair consideration of relevant amendments. We need a new and improved conservation title, and extension of the 2002 Farm Bill is not, in our view, an acceptable alternative. We believe the bill reported by the Agriculture Committee makes very important strides in addressing key conservation issues and programs, but we also are united in the view that important improvements to both policy and funding need to be made on the floor. Therefore, we urge you to move as quickly as possible to considering, amending, and passing a new farm bill.

Sincerely,

American Farmland Trust

Audubon

Center for Native Ecosystems

Chesapeake Bay Foundation

Coevolution Institute

Defenders of Wildlife

Izaak Walton League of America

National Campaign for Sustainable Agriculture

National Wildlife Federation

Natural Resources Defense Council

Sustainable Agriculture Coalition

November 13, 2007

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
United States Senate
528 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
361A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators Reid and McConnell:

The undersigned organizations write to urge prompt resolution to the amendment process for the 2007 farm legislation. We were encouraged the Senate moved to consideration of the legislation, but disappointed by the lack of progress made last week.

As you know, important provisions of current farm law have recently expired. Farmers and ranchers need to have policy in place in order to make well-informed financing, cropping and marketing decisions. And, it is important to farmers and ranchers, rural communities and other stakeholders to have conservation, nutrition, energy, risk management, trade, research and other policies in place as soon as possible.

While each of our organizations may have differing opinions on policy provisions in the legislation, we agree it is critically important for the full Senate to approve a bill expeditiously so a conference committee can be appointed and a final bill approved before the end of the year. With Congress scheduled to recess beginning Friday, November 16, few days remain for the Senate to conclude its work.

Thank you for your consideration of our views and recommendations; we look forward to working with you to develop and implement an effective new farm law as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

American Cotton Shippers Association
American Farm Bureau Federation
American Soybean Association
American Sugar Alliance
National Association of State Departments of Agriculture
National Association of Wheat Growers
National Barley Growers Association
National Cotton Council
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives
National Farmers Union
National Milk Producers Federation
National Sorghum Growers
National Sunflower Association
Southern Peanut Farmers Federation
US Canola Association
US Rice Producers Association
USA Dry Pea & Lentil Council
USA Rice Federation